



*State of New Jersey*  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
PO Box 729  
TRENTON, NJ 08625

JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

KEVIN M. RYAN  
*Commissioner*

June 27, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, public debate about immigration issues has been at a fever pitch for some time now. While I understand and appreciate that many lawmakers around the country are currently working hard to push for fair and humane immigration reform legislation, I am gravely concerned that some officials in the national debate seem to have little regard for human rights or the importance of keeping families together.

I am particularly concerned about how immigrant children and families have been and continue to be affected here in New Jersey. I am disturbed by stories presented to me about families being torn apart and children who are being left behind, sometimes on their own, due to surprise raids where parents are being detained and perhaps deported. Needless to say, when this occurs children and families go through an extremely traumatic experience and, some, if not all, will undoubtedly be in need of counseling and other social services.

Governor Corzine and I want to reiterate our commitment to serve every child and family in need of our assistance, regardless of citizenship, immigration status or how long they have lived in this state. We stand by this commitment and hope that you stand with us.

As our partners in the child welfare system, I am asking each you and your organizations to please help us identify when and where any children are being separated from their parents and left alone as a result of immigration enforcement. If you know of children and families who might be in this situation, please call DCF's Constituent Relations line at 609-292-1840.

**I would also like to remind our contracted partners and providers that no child or family can be denied any services that your organization offers using state funding because of their immigration status.**

I know that all of you work tirelessly everyday because you are committed to serving all children and families in need and I want to personally thank you. As I have said many times, none of us can alone do the vital work of serving our most vulnerable kids and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Ryan".

Kevin M. Ryan  
Commissioner